(iii) Increased and efficient use or fertilizers;

(iv) Propagation of adoption of rainfed farming technology for stablisation of production in rainfed areas;

(v) Efficient us; of irrigation water and expansion of area under irrigation.

(vi) Adequate plant protection measures over larger area and propagation of adoption of Integrated Post Management Approach;

(vii) Training of farmers and extension workers and organisation of field demonstrations on farmers' field for the effective transfer of improved production technology;

(viii) Transfer of technology through reorganised extension system training and visits, etc.

To implement the above strategy the Government of lndia have Jaun-ched a number of crop production programmes for crops like Rice, Wheat, Maize & Millets and Pulses in identified States of the country. Through these programmes, incentives are being provided to the farmers for use of critical inputs like seeds. Micro-nutrients, Plant Protection Equipments, Farm Implements, Relatively Environmental Friendly Pesticides; etc.

Besides, for quick transfer of latest crop production technology incentives are also being provided for organisation of field demonstrations and farmers/farm labourers trainings.

Agricultural Pricing Policy

1316. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHA JIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Parliamentary Com mittee on Agriculture in its recent report has recommended a farmer-friendly agricultural pricing policy; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to evolve such a pri cing policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The Government is already following a farmer-friendly agricultural pricing policy. The minimum support prices announced by the Government not only cover the cost of production but also provide a reasonable margin of profit. The methodology for estimation of cost of production has recently been revised so as to make the same comprehensive and realistic with a view to ensure better returns to the farmers for their produce.

Scarcity Conditions in Gulabgarh and Thakarakot Areas of Udampur District of J & K

1317. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute scarcity conditions in Gulabgarh and Thakarakot areas of Udampur (Jammu) district of Jammu and Kashmir and that the people are on the verge of starvation; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to provide relief to the affected people in the area ?